

## MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 1, 2007

TO: All Members of the Delaware State Senate  
and House of Representatives

FROM: Ms. Daniese McMullin-Powell  
Chairperson  
State Council for Persons with Disabilities

RE: S.B. 66 [Child Care Subsidy]

The State Council for Persons with Disabilities (SCPD) has reviewed S.B. 66 which would require the Division of Social Services (DSS) to conduct a study at least every 2 years and to establish a base reimbursement rate no less than 75% of the fair market rate established by the latest study. Consistent with the attached April 6 News Journal article, the Legislature's "Kids Caucus", has included this initiative among its legislative priorities. SCPD endorses the proposed legislation based on the following observations.

First, the State offers day care/preschool subsidies to low income families to promote early childhood education and parent employment. In recent years, low reimbursement rates have prompted a reduction in the number of day cares which offer State "slots". S.B. 66 recites that "providers have great difficulty making ends meet when they are being reimbursed at 66-75% of the 2005 fair market rate". Historically, rates have been increased periodically based on fair market rate studies.

Second, the availability of subsidized day care/preschool promotes employability and enhances school-readiness among at-risk children.

SCPD did want to note that since S.B. 65 and S.B. 66 amend the same sections of Title 31 Del.C. §392, these are truly alternative bills. If one is passed, the other could not pass without amendments.

Thank you for your consideration and please contact SCPD if you have any questions regarding our position or observations on the proposed legislation.

cc: The Honorable Ruth Ann Minner  
Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens  
Developmental Disabilities Council

